surveyed and documented 91,364 species of fauna, out of which 413 are endangered species. The Botanical Survey of India has documented 45,968 species of flora, out of which 155 are endangered species.

(c) and (d) As per the IUCN Red Data List, Salamander is not on the verge of extinction. The species is distributed in Darjeeling district of West Bengal and some of the North-Eastern States. It is protected under Scheduled II, Part I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which are designated as 'Least Concern' according to IUCN Red Data List.

Coal exploitation in degraded forests

2442. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow coal exploitation in degraded forest lands of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has analyzed the impact of deforestation of forest areas, since 60 per cent of the total forest land are degraded forests; and

(c) the details of actions proposed by Government to protect/forests in the country, in case of coal exploitation in degraded forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The coal is extracted form the Coal Bearing Areas irrespective of reserve / protected / degraded forests or non-forest lands as per the requirement of the nation and economic viability of extraction. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for mining of coal in the forest areas under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The provisions of the Act and the mechanism established there under permits, diversion of forest land only when no alternatives were available. The land use for different purposes is also optimized. Further, the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is permitted after stipulating commensurate mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area. In addition, phased reclamation of the mined out areas is also stipulated in approval orders.

Death of tigers in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve

2443. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger deaths in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan during the last one year and the reasons for their death; and

(b) the number of tigers relocated to Sariska Wildlife sanctuary from Ranthambhor during the last one year and the future course of action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the last year, mortality of one tigress on 01.09.2008 has been reported by the State in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, due to territorial infighting.

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) So far three tigers have been relocated in the Sariska Tiger Reserve from Ranthambhore on 28.6.2009 (male), 4.7.2008 (female) and 25.2.2009 (female) as per the recovery plan suggested by the Wildlife institute of India. The State has informed that further translocation of tigers would be done in accordance with the said recovery plan.

Tigers in Ranthambhor and Sariska

†2444. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the last tiger census was conducted in Ranthambhor and Sariska tiger reserves and the present population of tigers in those reserves;

(b) whether Government has any proposal for protecting the tiger left in those reserves and whether any financial package is proposed for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The last estimation of tiger population in Ranthambhore and Sariska Tiger Reserves was conducted by the State in May, 2009. As reported by the State, at present there are 41 tigers in Ranthambhore and 3 tigers in Sariska.

(b) and (c) The State Government is taking conservation initiatives for protecting the tiger as per the guidelines issued by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, *vis-a-vis* the provisions contained in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, funding support is provided to the State for *in-situ* conservation of tigers in the said Tiger Reserves based on the proposals received. Further, 100% funding support is being provided by the Government of India for creation of the Special Tiger Protection Force in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve for antipoaching activities.

Impact of climate change on women

2445. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies are in progress to measure the impact of climate change on women living in poverty; and

(b) whether, under the proposed National Mission on Empowerment of Women, Government is planning to include strategies to enhance the coping capacity of women to withstand the adverse impact of climate change and global warming, with particular reference to water, fodder, fuel, wood and livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No specific study has been commissioned to measure the impact of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.